

*York University*  
**School of Public Policy and Administration**  
**AP/PPAS 3761 3.00 Section A (crosslisted to: AP/POLS 3170 3.00)**  
**CANADA'S SOCIAL POLICY**  
**Fall 2024**

**Professor:** Thomas R. Klassen

**Web sites:** [www.tklassen.blog.yorku.ca](http://www.tklassen.blog.yorku.ca) and [www.linkedin.com/in/thomasklassen/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/thomasklassen/)

**Meeting dates:** Tuesdays 4:00-7:00

**Classroom:** VH 3009

**Office location:** 137 McLaughlin College

**E-mail:** [tklassen@yorku.ca](mailto:tklassen@yorku.ca)

**Course description:** This course introduces students to social policy with specific reference to Canada but also in a comparative context. The course outlines the historical trajectory of social policy in Western nations and highlights significant social, ideological, political, and economic factors that have shaped social policy in Canada. Selected policy areas such as student financial aid, old age pensions, unemployment insurance, and welfare assistance will be analyzed. The final section of the course assesses the pattern of social policy reforms and the impacts that these have had both in Canada, selected other nations, and globally.

The course involves extensive use of case studies, scenarios, role playing and related activities. These assist students in learning and applying knowledge acquired from readings and lectures to other aspects of their studies and to their lives. Case studies on different policy fields are the major writing assignments in the course. The course meets in person with all activities, including the mid-term, taking place on campus.

**NOTE:** Attending classes regularly is essential in this course. Not attending classes will make it impossible to successfully complete the assignments and earn a passing grade in the course. There is a blended section of this course offered in the Fall 2024 semester for those wishing an online component.

**Learning Outcomes:** The course is designed to stimulate critical thinking on public policy and to introduce the fundamental debates on, and knowledge about, public policy. The course will be particularly useful for future professionals in the public and private sectors, as well as in further studies.

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate key aspects of public policy.
2. Analyze key debates in Canadian and comparative public policy.
3. Express themselves clearly and concisely in discussions of public administration and public policy.

**Required readings** (both books are available for purchase at the York Bookstore):

*Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction* (8<sup>th</sup> edition) by Lydia Miljan. Oxford University Press (Canada). 2021.

*How to Succeed at University (and Get a Great Job!): Mastering the Critical Skills You Need for School, Work and Life* by Thomas R. Klassen and John A. Dwyer. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. 2015. You may download the book for **FREE**.

**Recommended reference books:** There are many books on social policy at the York Libraries and in public/community libraries, as well as online. The large number of books and publications reflects the importance that social policy play in the lives of citizens. Students are not required to purchase any of the books below but might find these to be helpful sources of supplementary information. All books are the Scott Library with the call numbers indicated. Most are also available as ebooks.

*States and Markets: Sociology of Public Policy in Canada* by Susan A. McDaniel and Seong-gee Um. Toronto: Oxford University Press. 2015 **HN 107 M43 2015** [also check Reserves]

*Universality and Social Policy in Canada*. Béland, Daniel, Gregory Marchildon and Michael J. Prince, eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 2019. **HN 107 U55 2019**

*The Routledge Handbook of Global Public Policy and Administration*. Thomas R. Klassen, Denita Cepiku and T. J. Lah, eds. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. 2017. **JF 1351 R59**

*Social Policy in Canada*. Ernie Lightman and Naomi Lightman. Don Mills, Ontario, Canada: Oxford University Press. 2017. **HN 103.5 L54 2017**

*Canadian Social Policy: Issues and Perspectives*. Anne Westhues and Brian Wharf. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press. 2012. **HN 107 C354 2012**

*Social Policy and Practice in Canada: A History*. Alvin Finkel. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press. 2006. **HV 108 F56 2006**

*Policy Change, Courts, and the Canadian Constitution*. Emmett Macfarlane. University of Toronto Press. 2018. **KE 3098 P65 2018**

*Changing Politics of Canadian Social Policy*. James J. Rice and Michael J. Prince. Toronto; Buffalo: University of Toronto Press. 2013. **HN 107 R53 2013**

*Caring for Children: Social Movements and Public Policy in Canada*. Rachel Langford, Susan Prentice and Patrizia Albanese. Vancouver: UBC Press. 2017. **HQ 778.7 C2 C37 2017**

There are two public policy journals that might be of interest: **Canadian Public Policy**, and **Policy Options**.

### Evaluation

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Worth (%)</i>	<i>due date</i>
LinkedIn profile	5	September 24
Policy case #1 – immigration	15	October 8
Mid-term test (1 hr)	20	October 22
Policy case #2 – opioid crisis	20	November 12
Policy case #3 - pharmacare	30	December 3
Participation	10	ongoing

### Please note

1. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Late assignments will be assigned a grade of zero. It is strongly recommended that you submit assignments before the due date and time.
2. Assignments must be submitted via eClass. Assignments submitted via other means will not be accepted.
3. Save your draft assignments and rough notes in case intellectual property problems arise.

### Grading

Percentage grades will be provided for each assignment. The final letter grade will be determined as illustrated:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Per Cent Range</i>	<i>Description</i>
A+	90-100	Exceptional
A	80-89	Excellent
B+	75-79	Very Good
B	70-74	Good
C+	65-69	Competent
C	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	55-59	Passing
D	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	(marginally below 50%)	Marginally Failing
F	(below 50%)	Failing

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. Information on the **Pass/Fail Grading Option**.

Please note that students who wish to designate a course as Pass/Fail must do so within the first two weeks of the term in which the course begins.

**Assignment Submission:** Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Students are encouraged to submit drafts of assignments for review and feedback prior to the due dates.

**Late assignments:** Assignments received later than the due date and time will not be graded. Exceptions to this policy might be granted only in extraordinary situations, which require supporting written documentation deemed adequate by the instructor, and advance notification by the student. Requests, even with supporting written documentation, made after the due date will not be accepted.

## **IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Academic Honesty and Integrity**

York students are required to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and they are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. The Policy affirms the responsibility of faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to abide by such standards.

There is also an academic integrity website with comprehensive information about academic honesty and how to find resources at York to help improve students' research and writing skills, and cope with university life. Students are expected to review the materials on the **Academic Integrity website**.

Cheating and plagiarism are extremely serious academic offenses that will result in **severe sanctions**.

### **Access/Disability/Counselling**

York University is committed to principles of respect, inclusion and equality of all persons with disabilities across campus. The University provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University.

Students in need of these services are asked to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with

advance notice. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professor is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs. Additional information is available at the following websites, including services for students who require counselling: **Student Counselling & Development** and **Student Accessibility Services**

### **Ethics Review Process**

York students are subject to the York University *Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants*. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an *Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants* at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, speak with your professor immediately.

### **Religious Observance Accommodation**

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the professor within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the professor immediately.

### **Use of Course Materials**

The materials posted and made available to students are designed for use only in this course. Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct under York's *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* and the *Senate Policy on Academic Honesty* and/or legal consequences if copyright law has been violated.

### **Student Conduct in Academic Situations**

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom and other academic settings, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour.

Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class.

### **University Resources**

**The Writing Centre:** One-to-one help with a writing instructor on any writing assignment. You will need to enroll to set up your appointment, although the Centre also offers some drop-in sessions: <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/writing-centre/>.

**York University Libraries:** Links to the main catalogue, e-resources, online help chat line with librarian, and many other research aids: <http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/>

## **WEEKLY LECTURE SCHEDULE, REQUIRED READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**

### **Week 1 (September 10)**

*Welcome, introductions and course overview*  
*Introduction to social policy*

If you need an introduction to, or refresher of, Canadian politics, social policy and government, there is an easy to read and short (51 pages) book available free of charge from the Library of Parliament: [How Canadians Govern Themselves](#).

Also: [watch this clip](#) (a government minister speaking to his deputy minister):

## **PART II: HISTORY, STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES**

### **Week 2 (September 17)**

*The Canadian context and social policy*

REQUIRED:

Chapter 1  
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 1

Podcast of [What Is Government Good At? A Canadian Answer](#)

**Week 3 (September 24):**

*Theoretical perspectives on social policy*  
*Social policy and the rise of the welfare state*

REQUIRED:

Chapter 2  
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 2

Podcast of *Public policy and young Canadians*

SUPPLEMENTARY

Prince, Michael J. 2008. **The Evolution of Social Policy in Canada and the Expression of Canada in Social Policy.**

Rice, James J. and Prince, Michael J. 2013. *Changing Politics of Canadian Social Policy*, Second Edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Available at the Scott Library at **HN 107 R53 2013** and as an ebook.

**Week 4 (October 1)**

*Policy tools and instruments*

**Library information session**

REQUIRED

Chapter 3  
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 3

**Week 5 (October 8)**

*The policy process*

REQUIRED

Chapter 4 and 5  
Klassen and Dwyer – chapter 4

SUPPLEMENTARY

**Watch this clip** (of two civil servants talking) from *Yes, Minister*.

**Reading week - October 12-18 [no class on October 15]**

## **PART II: CASE STUDIES AND APPLICATIONS**

### **Week 6 (October 22)**

Mid-term test (1 hour)

REQUIRED

Chapter 6  
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 5

SUPPLEMENTARY

Schmidt, Ron. 2007. **Comparing Federal Government Immigrant Settlement Policies in Canada and the United States**. *The American Review of Canadian Studies*; 37, 1: 103-123.

### **Week 7 (October 29)**

*Income security for older people in Canada*

REQUIRED

Chapter 7  
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 6

### **Week 8 (November 5)**

*Labour market policy*

REQUIRED

Chapter 8  
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 7



### **SECTION III: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES, GLOBALIZATION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

#### **Week 9 (November 12)**

*Youth Unemployment*

REQUIRED

Chapter 9

Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 8

#### **Week 10 (November 19)**

*Social policy in a comparative perspective: Ageing and sexual orientation*

REQUIRED

Chapter 10

Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 9

#### **Week 11 (November 26)**

*Creating a New Policy Agenda*

REQUIRED

Chapter 11

Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 10

Podcast of “Public policy and administration in an era of globalization” Chapter one in Klassen, T. R., D. Cepiku and T. F. Lah, eds, *The Routledge Handbook of Global Public Policy and Administration*. Video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpAot9vbz9M>

#### **Week 12 (December 3)**

*Social policy in comparative perspective health care*

REQUIRED:

Chapter 12

### **Course Web Resources**

There is considerable information available on the Web on public policy and public administration. Some of the web sites below may be of assistance in your research and of interest in exploring issues related to public policy.

**Canada School of Public Service**: information about the latest news and trends in executive learning, including information about executive education and development programs and services and to documents

**The Innovation Journal**: independent, peer-reviewed, Internet-based journal devoted to sharing ideas and discussing public sector policy and administration innovation

**Institute of Public Administration of Canada**: national non-profit organization, concerned with the theory and practice of public management, with 17 regional groups across Canada

**Office of the Auditor General of Canada**: publications, including searchable full text of the Reports of the Auditor General

**Parliamentary Internet Parlementaire**: access to the House of Commons, Senate and the Library of Parliament, including debates, committee proceedings, and status of legislation

**Privacy Commissioner of Canada**: includes annual reports

**Public Service Commission of Canada**: responsible for promoting and safeguarding a merit-based, representative and non-partisan public service that serves all Canadians.

There are also many web sites related to public policy that might be useful for our course.

**Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives**

**CD Howe Institute**

**Conference Board of Canada**

**Fraser Institute**

**International Labour Organization**

**Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP)**

**Maytree**

**Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD)**

**Vanier Institute**